

## A GENERIC REALLOCATION FOR MYRMOTERAS KUROIWÆ

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In 1930 the writer published, in this JOURNAL, a monograph of the ant genus *Myrmoteras*. At that time I was unaware of the existence of a description of a Japanese species attributed to *Myrmoteras*. In 1912 Matsumura described and figured, in the *Supplement to the Thousand Insects of Japan*, an insect which he called *Myrmoteras kuroiwæ*. The material on which Matsumura based his new species had been taken on the island of Okinawa, one of the Riukiu Islands, which together form a scattered archipelago extending from northern Formosa to the island of Kyushu. This fact in itself led me to doubt that *kuroiwæ* could belong to the genus *Myrmoteras* since the genus is so strictly confined to the old world tropics. To date the recorded northern limit of the range of *Myrmoteras* is Los Banos, Philippine Islands which lies just north of Lat. 14°. The island of Okinawa lies just north of Lat. 26° and it seemed exceedingly unlikely that a representative of *Myrmoteras* would occur eleven hundred miles to the north in a south temperate area.

A search into the bibliographical references concerning *Myrmoteras kuroiwæ* brought to light three publications in which the name has been cited. The first of these appeared in 1908 when Matsumura published in *Kuroiwa* his *Provisional List of Hymenoptera of Loochoo*. In this list *kuroiwæ* is mentioned as a manuscript name with no attendant description. The original description of *kuroiwæ*, as has been noted above, appeared in the *Supplement to the Thousand Insects of Japan* which was, apparently, published in 1912. The third reference, which consists only of the citation of the two just listed, appeared in the *Insecta Matsumura*, which was published by the Entomological Museum of Hokkaido, Imp. Univ., Vol. 1, in 1926-27. As may be seen the only data of any value in determining the status of *kuroiwæ* is that contained in the 1912 publication. This probably

explains why the insect has escaped the attention of European and American myrmecologists. The great majority of the issue of the *Thousand Insects of Japan* was destroyed in the earthquake of 1923. It is said that only fifteen copies survived but regardless of whether this is true it is certain that the work is of extreme rarity. Through the courtesy of the American Museum of Natural History I have been enabled to examine their set of this valuable publication. The original description of *kuroiwa* is entirely in Japanese. I did not take the trouble to have this translated because the figure given by Matsumura shows that the insect described as *Myrmoteras kuroiwa* is actually an *Odontomachus*. To judge from the figure I suspect that what Matsumura had was the ubiquitous *O. hæmatoda* but, since there have been two forms of *O. monticola* (subsp. *formosæ* and *major*) described from southern Formosa, it is possible that *kuroiwa* belongs to one of these.

It may be added that this disposes of the one remaining ant cited as new by Matsumura. His *Polyrhachis bispinosa*, given as a manuscript name in the 1908 list, was never described. Matsumura himself subsequently recognized this form as a synonym of *Dicamma rugosum* var. *anceps* Emery.